

JEROME HITS BACK AT MURPHY

PITTS JOHN AHEARN, WHO HAD

Predicts That J. Sergeant Cram Won't Let the Leader Talk Any More—Look at Osborne and Vote for Him if You Wish—Plummer? He's a Corpse

District Attorney Jerome went up to Zellner's Hall, at 170th street and Third avenue, last night and talked to 2,000 cheering, shouting enthusiasts for an hour. He had announced that he was going to answer the Murphy "charges" that Jerome had secretly sought to make a deal with Murphy for a Tammany nomination.

Mr. Jerome incidentally paid his respects to his opponent on the Tammany ticket to whom he always referred as "Poor Jim Osborne." He declined to discuss Flammern's Republican opponent, saying "What's the use of kicking a corpse?"

Arthur Von Briesen presided over the meeting. John Brooks Leavitt had just begun a speech when the crowd discovered Mr. Jerome working his way to the platform. Hats went up into the air. Men stood on their chairs and yelled until they were hoarse. They would not sit down until the band

had played the "star Spanglow manner," which they all sang. Mr. Jerome started out after Mr. Murphy without any preliminaries, saying:

Mr. Jerome's Speech.

"It was only such a little question; so few words in it: 'Where did you get it?' Whence came the automobile? Did you find it under one of your bars? Did some body send it to you in a registered letter? Only such a little question: 'Where did you get it?' And it calls forth a column in the newspaper from the great Pantata of them all! [Laughter and applause.]

"Now I said I would answer the gentle-

man from Good Ground this evening. The only trouble is, you on't be able to keep him talking. It will be like Devery in the last campaign—they ill fall on him and suppress him after to-night. [laughter. He won't say anything more. [laughter.

"I read that the Great One of Good Ground says," Jerome sent a confidential man to me on two or three occasions in his own behalf. And I find that the confidential man, once John Ahearn, says, "I took upon myself to ask him if he would accept the nomination for District Attorney at the hands of Tammany Hall." My gracious! In the criminal courts, were there an indictment with such a variance between allegation and proof, we would throw that indictment out. [Laughter and applause.]

"But more, he goes on and he says that

on two or three occasions—and that he will produce the proof—my reply was to say that I never send any one to him, but would not say that he had not sent any one to me. He says that on two or three occasions some one came to Good Ground. Who? Ahearn is only one person, who are the others? Why not remove the seal of secrecy? I will respect his confidence, will not tell what the man said to me nor what I said to him, but will he take that lid off?

"Let him name these other two or three that came to Good Ground and what they said. Let him name these confidential agents that he said came from me, and what I said to them. Oh, I should like that nice little story to be told." Let him talk some more, if J. Sergeant Cran will.

let him." You do not understand, and, as you know, the politics of this town. After you get to the place, the country, and an automobile and a liveried chauffeur you have got to have your man's man—you have got to have somebody who does the Tuxedo coat—stands back of you and guide you in the gentle amenities of life.

"And Sergeant Cram won't let him talk! Believe me, you won't get any more from him. He will cork him so tight that he will almost choke. But let me say to you, there is not a man in here—let me say to you, there is not a man in here—let any one assert the contrary. [Voices: We never thought so.]

"Let me say to you that when he says I even agree to join the Tammany Hall

general committee he told that which was not true. I never did. But, mind you, I should have no shame in joining the Tammany Hall general committee. There is no man whose memory I reverence and love more than that of my father. He was a member of that committee. I believe in organization, but I don't believe in despotism. [Applause.]

"But when it is played up against me that I agreed to do this, I don't like to use

the word "lie"—there is no good in being harsh, but I will say that the statement is not true. No man ever got a pledge out of me for anything, or anything approaching the promise of a pledge.

"Johnny Ahearn is a decent little fellow. Ahearn for a good many years has been my friend, and it is tough to see a decent little fellow have the screws put to him by the

yellow leave the screws put in his back. The fellow from Good Ground until he could not stand any more, but had to go to the front. [Applause.]

JEROME'S STORY OF THE TALK WITH AHEARN

"Now, let me tell you what did happen at this first alleged interview when Ahearn says he took it upon himself to ask me if I would accept a Tammany Hall nomination for District Attorney. Some months ago

Ahearn came to the office. I have always been glad to see him, glad to see him now. He hasn't done the square thing and he hasn't done altogether the truthful thing, but don't I know what it means to have those fellows put the gaff to you?

"Ahearn came to me in good faith, with his heart full of friendship and he believing the greatest thing in the world he could do for any man was to get him on the Tammany Hall ticket, and he honestly believed it, and he came to me months ago and he said: 'Judge, if they gave you the nomination, would you reject it?' 'Why,' I said

"He did say in this interview a true thing that I had said I had done McClellan wrong. I did say that and I had. And I have no regrets it more than I do. I never did mean thing, but when I found it was a mean thing, I did not take it back. [Applause.] And in the last campaign I did

wrong. I did say that and I had. And a man regrets it more than I do. I never did a mean thing, but when I found it was a mean thing, I did not take it back. [Applause.] And in the last campaign I did d